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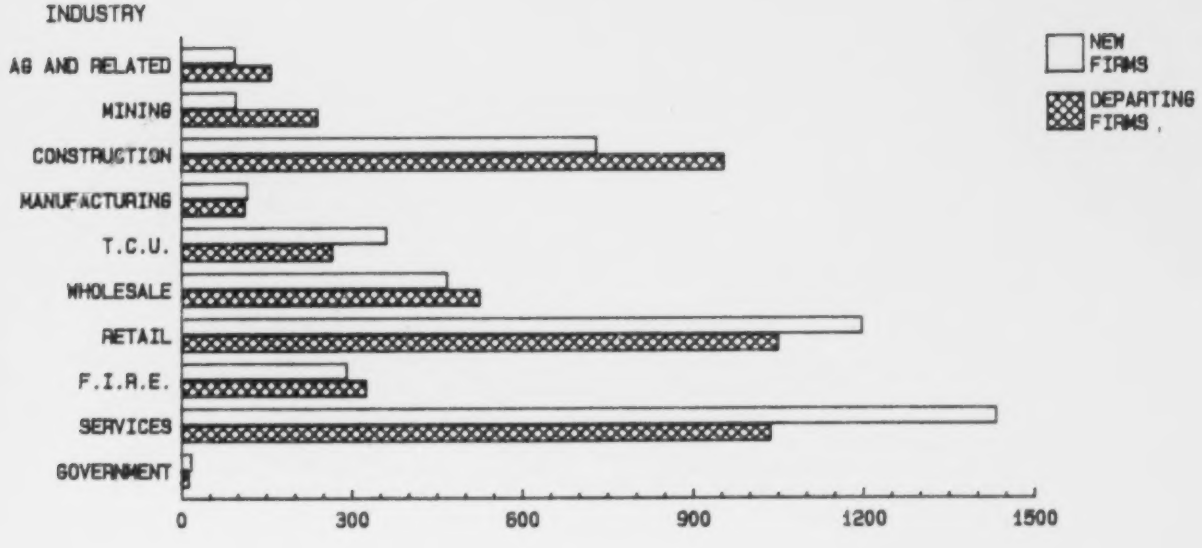
NORTH DAKOTA LABOR MARKET ADVISOR

AUGUST 1987

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 8

NEW AND DEPARTING FIRMS BY INDUSTRY 1984 THROUGH 1986



THE

NORTH DAKOTA

LABOR MARKET ADVISOR

GEORGE A. SINNER, GOVERNOR
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

JOB SERVICE NORTH DAKOTA
1000 EAST DIVIDE
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501

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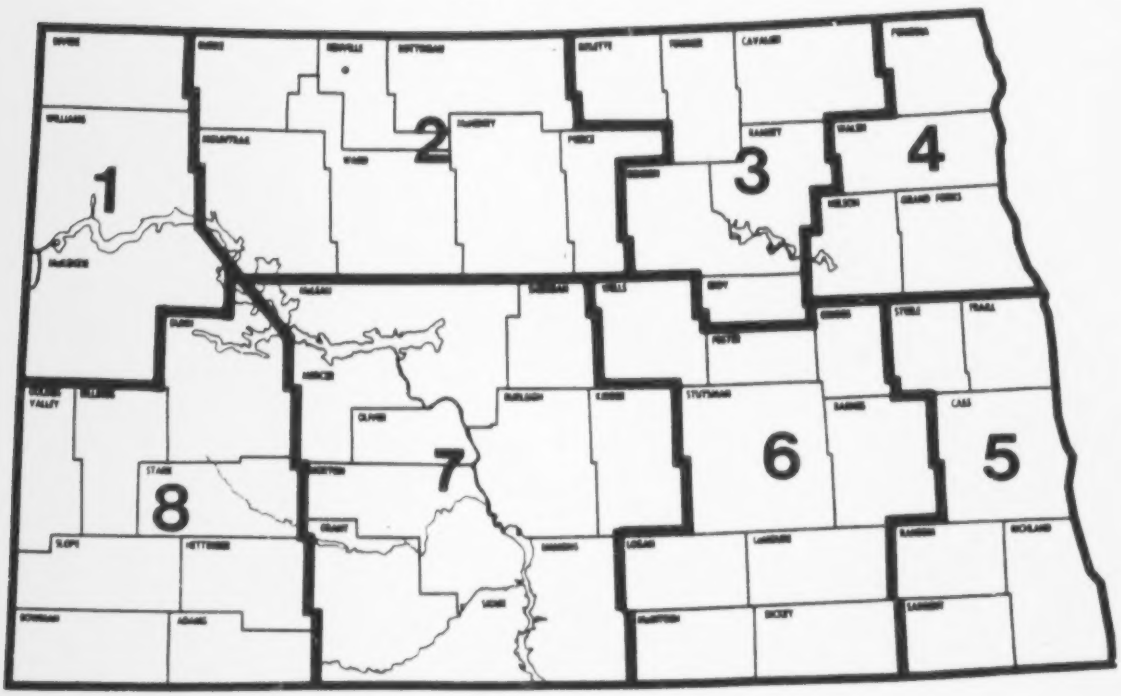
NORTH DAKOTA



STATE PLANNING REGIONS

Labor force, employment, and hours and earnings estimates are compiled in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

EMPLOYER SURVIVAL STUDY

The Services and Retail Trade industries account for over half of all new firms entering the North Dakota economy, according to a new study developed by Job Service. Information about new and departing firms, including their size, industry attachment, and dates of liability and termination under unemployment insurance laws is now available. This data will be beneficial in identifying and analyzing economic trends.

Data is available for the three-year period from 1984 through 1986. During that period, there were 4,819 total entries and 4,691 total exits, resulting in a net gain to the economy of 128 firms. (See Table 1 for net gain/loss by industry division.)

The gains occurred primarily in the expansion year of 1984, when there were 1,939 entries and 1,242 exits, for an increase of 697 businesses. Most of the new entries, shown in Table 2, were in Services (551), Retail Trade (517), and Construction (287). These firms represented 70% of the new firms in 1984. Table 2 also shows that exits were highest in these same divisions; Services led with 266 exits, Construction next with 256, and Retail Trade with 230.

A closer look at these industry divisions reveals that the highest net gains took place within Retail Trade and Services. The increase in the number of eating and drinking establishments accounted for the largest accumulation in Retail Trade. The gains in the Services industry were distributed mainly among the Personal, Business, Health, and Legal Services industry groups.

In 1984, only two industry divisions showed a net loss of firms – Ag and Related, and Mining -- reflecting the downturn in the agricultural and energy sectors of the economy.

Nearly 6 in every 10 firms entering the economy in 1984 employed fewer than 4 people while 8 of 10 exiting firms were of this size. Large firms, employing 20 or more, accounted for only 6% of the entries in that year and 3% of the exits.

In 1985, there were more exits than entries, 1,684 and 1,506 respectively, for a net loss of 178 establishments. Services, Retail Trade, and Construction again added 70% of the firms; however, in contrast to 1984, the exits offset these gains so that only two industry groups – Services, and Transportation, Communication, and Utilities -- concluded the year with an increase in employing units. Within the Services division, the Personal, Business, Legal, and Social Services groups accounted for the most growth, while much of the gain in Transportation, Communications and Utilities was due to a large number of new firms in the Motor Freight Transportation and Warehousing group.

The high loss of firms in the Construction division reflected the decline in Building and Related Construction. The losses in Mining and Ag and Related continued and, in 1985, the Retail Trade industry also showed a substantial net loss, reflecting mainly the larger number of exits than entries in the Food Stores, and the Apparel and Accessory Stores groups.

TABLE 1. NET GAIN/LOSS OF FIRMS BY INDUSTRY

INDUSTRY	1984 GAIN/LOSS	1985 GAIN/LOSS	1986 GAIN/LOSS	1984-1986 GAIN/LOSS
AG and Related	- 20	- 17	- 26	- 63
Mining	- 21	- 61	- 61	-143
Construction	+ 31	-146	-109	-224
Manufacturing	+ 12	0	- 7	+ 5
T.C.U.	+ 52	+ 33	+ 10	+ 95
Wholesale Trade	+ 33	- 33	- 57	- 57
Retail Trade	+287	- 62	- 78	+147
F.I.R.E.	+ 38	- 22	- 50	- 34
Services	+285	+124	- 12	+397
Government	0	+ 6	- 1	+ 5
TOTAL	+697	-178	-391	+128

Of the 1,506 entries in 1985, 963 (64%) employed less than 4 people while 1,308, or 78%, of the exiting firms were in this size class. On the other hand, more large firms (86) entered the economy than exited (46).

The last study year, 1986, revealed a net loss of 391 firms resulting from the difference between 1,765 exits and 1,374 entries. Not surprisingly, Services, Retail Trade, and Construction again led the way in firm entries; however, these were offset by the concurrent loss of firms in those industries. Only Transportation, Communications and Utilities showed a small net gain in 1986, with much of the growth occurring in Motor Freight Transportation and Warehousing.

As shown in Table 1, net losses were sustained in all other industry divisions, with the greatest decrease in the Construction industry. Manufacturing, after gaining firms in 1984 and holding steady in 1985, concluded 1986 with 7 fewer establishments. The Trades industries and Transportation, Communications and Utilities recorded declines in virtually every subgroup while even Services, which had exhibited strong growth in the two prior years, showed a minimal net loss.

Of the 1,374 entries in 1986, 851 (62%) were small firms and 68 (5%) were large firms. Of the 1,765 exits, 1,365 (77%) were small and 53 (4%) were large.

The emergence of the Services and Retail Trade industries and the decline in Construction, Mining, and Ag and Related highlighted the three-year period: Services increased by 397 firms while Construction decreased by 224 firms (Table 1). The peak growth year was 1984 when 1,939 new firms entered the state's economy. The two following years were marked by higher exit than entry rates resulting in a net loss of firms. The importance of small firms to the economy is also apparent: 6 out of 10 new firms and 8 out of 10 departing firms employed fewer than 4 workers. In contrast, more large firms (20 or more employees) entered the economy than exited, providing a measure of stability to the labor force. Retail Trade accounted for a greater proportion of these large firms entering and exiting than any other industry.

The study included all firms covered by unemployment insurance laws. Firms doing business in more than one county were counted as one establishment only. Mere transfers of ownership were excluded from the entry and exit counts as well as firms which entered and exited during the same calendar year.

Data from the employer survival program will be valuable as one indicator for analyzing economic trends and will become increasingly useful as more years of information become available. Additional information can be obtained by calling Cherryl Madison in the Research and Statistics Section toll-free in North Dakota at 1-800-732-9787. Local inquiries or calls from out of state should call (701) 224-2399.

Cherryl Madison
Research Analyst

TABLE 2. ENTRIES AND EXITS BY INDUSTRY

INDUSTRY	1984		1985		1986		1984-1986	
	ENTRIES	EXITS	ENTRIES	EXITS	ENTRIES	EXITS	ENTRIES	EXITS
AG and Related	42	62	29	46	26	52	97	160
Mining	52	73	27	88	19	80	98	241
Construction	287	256	229	375	216	325	732	956
Manufacturing	40	28	39	39	39	46	118	113
T.C.U.	131	79	125	92	106	96	362	267
Wholesale Trade	175	142	141	174	153	210	469	526
Retail Trade	517	230	340	402	341	419	1198	1051
F.I.R.E.	137	99	81	103	74	124	292	326
Services	551	266	487	363	396	408	1434	1037
Government	7	7	8	2	4	5	19	14
TOTAL	1939	1242	1506	1684	1374	1765	4819	4691

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT

NORTH DAKOTA

(Rounded to Hundreds)

	CURRENT MONTH	PREVIOUS MONTH	ONE YEAR AGO	CHANGE FROM: LAST MONTH	CHANGE FROM: LAST YEAR
I N D U S T R I E S	AUG 1987	JULY 1987	AUG 1986	JULY 1987	AUG 1986
TOTAL	251,100	251,900	249,900	-0.3%	0.5%
MINING	4,200	4,100	4,500	2.4%	-6.7%
COAL	1,100	1,100	1,200	0.0%	-8.3%
CRUDE PET. & NAT. GAS	2,500	2,500	2,700	0.0%	-7.4%
OTHER MINING	600	500	600	20.0%	0.0%
CONSTRUCTION	13,300	12,800	13,900	3.9%	-4.3%
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	3,500	3,400	3,900	2.9%	-10.3%
STREET HIGHWAY & HEAVY	3,800	3,700	4,200	2.7%	-9.5%
SPECIAL TRADE CONSTRUCTION	6,000	5,700	5,800	5.3%	3.4%
MANUFACTURING	15,600	16,200	15,300	-3.7%	2.0%
DURABLE GOODS	6,900	6,900	6,500	0.0%	6.2%
STONE, CLAY & GLASS	900	800	900	12.5%	0.0%
PRIMARY & FAB. METALS	800	800	700	0.0%	14.3%
MACHINERY & TRANS. EQUIP.	4,000	4,000	3,800	0.0%	5.3%
OTHER DURABLE GOODS	1,200	1,300	1,100	-7.7%	9.1%
NONDURABLE GOODS	8,700	9,300	8,800	-6.5%	-1.1%
FOOD & KINDRED PRODUCTS	4,000	4,600	4,100	-13.0%	-2.4%
DAIRY PRODUCTS	800	800	800	0.0%	0.0%
FOOD SPECIALITIES & CONFECTIONERY PRODUCTS	1,200	1,700	1,200	-29.4%	0.0%
BAKERY PRODUCTS	300	400	400	-25.0%	-25.0%
OTHER FOOD & KINDRED	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0%	0.0%
PRINTING & PUBLISHING	2,400	2,400	2,400	0.0%	0.0%
OTHER NONDURABLE GOODS	2,300	2,300	2,300	0.0%	0.0%
TRANS. COMM. & UTILITIES	16,300	16,100	15,900	1.2%	2.5%
TRANSPORTATION	8,100	8,000	7,700	1.3%	5.2%
TRUCKING & WAREHOUSE	4,900	4,800	4,400	2.1%	11.4%
OTHER TRANSPORTATION	3,200	3,200	3,300	0.0%	-3.0%
COMMUNICATION	3,300	3,200	3,300	3.1%	0.0%
UTILITIES	4,900	4,900	4,900	0.0%	0.0%

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT

NORTH DAKOTA

(Continued)

	CURRENT MONTH	PREVIOUS MONTH	ONE YEAR AGO	CHANGE FROM: LAST MONTH	CHANGE FROM: LAST YEAR
I N D U S T R I E S	AUG 1987	JULY 1987	AUG 1986	JULY 1987	AUG 1986
WHOLESALE TRADE	19,400	19,300	19,600	0.5%	-1.0%
DURABLE GOODS	9,200	9,200	9,200	0.0%	0.0%
NONDURABLE GOODS	10,200	10,100	10,400	1.0%	-1.9%
RETAIL TRADE	48,500	48,300	48,100	0.4%	0.8%
GENERAL MERCHANDISE	6,300	6,200	6,100	1.6%	3.3%
FOOD STORES	6,700	6,700	6,700	0.0%	0.0%
AUTO DEALERS & SERVICE ST.	6,700	6,700	6,700	0.0%	0.0%
APPAREL & ACCESSORIES	2,600	2,600	2,600	0.0%	0.0%
OTHER RETAIL	26,200	26,100	26,000	0.4%	0.8%
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	12,700	12,700	12,600	0.0%	0.8%
FINANCE	6,900	6,900	6,900	0.0%	0.0%
BANKING	4,200	4,200	4,300	0.0%	-2.3%
OTHER FINANCE	2,700	2,700	2,600	0.0%	3.8%
INSURANCE	3,900	3,900	3,800	0.0%	2.6%
REAL ESTATE	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0%	0.0%
SERVICES	60,800	60,500	59,700	0.5%	1.8%
LODGING	4,200	4,200	4,300	0.0%	-2.3%
HEALTH SERVICES	26,400	26,300	25,500	0.4%	3.5%
NURSING CARE & HOSPITALS	19,400	19,400	18,800	0.0%	3.2%
OTHER MEDICAL SERVICES	7,000	6,900	6,700	1.4%	4.5%
OTHER SERVICES	30,200	30,000	29,900	0.7%	1.0%
GOVERNMENT	60,300	61,900	60,300	-2.6%	0.0%
FEDERAL	10,200	10,300	9,900	-1.0%	3.0%
STATE GOVERNMENT	17,300	17,900	17,600	-3.4%	-1.7%
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	10,000	10,200	10,100	-2.0%	-1.0%
OTHER STATE GOVERNMENT	7,300	7,700	7,500	-5.2%	-2.7%
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	32,800	33,700	32,800	-2.7%	0.0%
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	13,200	13,600	13,200	-2.9%	0.0%
OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT	19,600	20,100	19,600	-2.5%	0.0%

NONAGRICULTURAL

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT

INDUSTRIES	CURRENT MONTH	PREVIOUS MONTH	ONE YEAR AGO	CHANGE FROM: LAST MONTH	CHANGE FROM: LAST YEAR
FARGO-MOORHEAD MSA	AUG 1987	JULY 1987	AUG 1986	JULY 1987	AUG 1986
TOTAL	68,500	68,900	66,900	-0.6%	2.4%
MINING CONSTRUCTION	4,100	3,900	4,000	5.1%	2.5%
MANUFACTURING	5,000	5,100	4,900	-2.0%	2.0%
DURABLE GOODS	2,300	2,200	2,100	4.5%	9.5%
NONDURABLE GOODS	2,700	2,900	2,800	-6.9%	-3.6%
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	4,200	4,200	4,200	0.0%	0.0%
TRADE	20,800	20,900	20,400	-0.5%	2.0%
WHOLESALE TRADE	6,400	6,500	6,500	-1.5%	-1.5%
RETAIL TRADE	14,400	14,400	13,900	0.0%	3.6%
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4,500	4,500	4,300	0.0%	4.7%
SERVICES	18,300	18,300	17,600	0.0%	4.0%
GOVERNMENT	11,600	12,000	11,500	-3.3%	0.9%
FEDERAL	2,200	2,200	2,100	0.0%	4.8%
STATE & LOCAL	9,400	9,800	9,400	-4.1%	0.0%
GRAND FORKS MSA					
TOTAL	28,200	28,700	28,000	-1.7%	0.7%
MINING & CONSTRUCTION	2,100	2,100	2,100	0.0%	0.0%
MANUFACTURING	1,200	1,700	1,200	-29.4%	0.0%
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	1,300	1,300	1,500	0.0%	-13.3%
TRADE	8,100	8,000	7,900	1.3%	2.5%
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.0%	0.0%
RETAIL TRADE	6,700	6,600	6,500	1.5%	3.1%
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.0%	0.0%
SERVICES	6,400	6,300	6,200	1.6%	3.2%
GOVERNMENT	7,900	8,100	7,900	-2.5%	0.0%
BISMARCK MSA					
TOTAL	37,000	36,600	36,600	1.1%	1.1%
MINING	200	200	200	0.0%	0.0%
CONSTRUCTION	1,900	1,800	1,800	5.6%	5.6%
MANUFACTURING	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%	0.0%
TRANS., COMM. & UTILITIES	2,700	2,700	2,700	0.0%	0.0%
TRADE	9,900	9,800	9,800	1.0%	1.0%
WHOLESALE TRADE	2,200	2,200	2,300	0.0%	-4.3%
RETAIL TRADE	7,700	7,600	7,500	1.3%	2.7%
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	1,600	1,600	1,700	0.0%	-5.9%
SERVICES	10,400	10,200	10,300	2.0%	1.0%
GOVERNMENT	8,300	8,300	8,100	0.0%	2.5%

U. S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
ALL URBAN CONSUMERS

(1967=100)

	Annual Average 1986	August 1987	July 1987	August 1986	Percent Change From July 1987	Percent Change From August 1986
All Items	328.4	342.7	340.8	328.6	0.6%	4.3%
Food & Beverage	311.8	325.4	325.1	314.6	0.1%	3.4%
Housing	360.2	374.9	370.9	362.4	1.1%	3.4%
Apparel & Upkeep	207.8	214.7	215.9	207.0	-0.6%	3.7%
Transportation	307.5	320.2	317.8	301.3	0.8%	6.3%
Medical Care	433.5	466.1	464.6	437.5	0.3%	6.5%
Entertainment	274.1	283.9	283.8	274.7	0.0%	3.3%

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX
UNITED STATES AVERAGE

	Annual Average 1986	August 1987	July 1987	August 1986	Percent Change From July 1987	Percent Change From August 1986
All Commodities	299.8	310.2	310.2	297.2	0.1%	4.5%
Farm Products & Processed Food and Feeds	252.0	258.6	261.8	255.5	-1.2%	1.2%
Industrial Commodities	312.1	323.8	322.6	307.9	0.4%	5.2%

MANUFACTURING HOURS AND EARNINGS

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Aug 1987	July 1987	Aug 1986	Aug 1987	July 1987	Aug 1986	Aug 1987	July 1987	Aug 1986
UNITED STATES									
Manufacturing	403.27	401.13	393.98	40.9	40.6	40.7	9.86	9.88	9.68
Durable Goods	429.52	426.81	420.04	41.3	41.0	41.1	10.40	10.41	10.22
Nondurable Goods	367.94	366.40	358.49	40.3	40.0	40.1	9.13	9.16	8.94
NORTH DAKOTA									
Manufacturing	325.55	321.86	312.80	38.3	38.5	38.1	8.50	8.36	8.21
Durable Goods	352.92	358.75	332.42	40.8	41.0	39.2	8.65	8.75	8.48
Nondurable Goods	304.67	294.63	298.03	36.4	36.6	37.3	8.37	8.05	7.99
Food & Kindred	318.94	301.50	315.71	37.0	37.5	37.9	8.62	8.04	8.33
Printing and Publishing	248.77	244.90	276.36	29.9	29.4	32.9	8.32	8.33	8.40
FARGO-MOORHEAD MSA									
Manufacturing	309.22	296.67	309.40	37.3	35.7	36.4	8.29	8.31	8.50
Durable Goods	327.10	322.03	293.94	39.6	38.2	35.5	8.26	8.43	8.28
Nondurable Goods	294.17	277.16	320.05	35.4	33.8	37.0	8.31	8.20	8.65

LABOR FORCE - BY COUNTY - BY REGION

	LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			RATE		
	Aug'87	July'87	Aug'86	Aug'87	July'87	Aug'86	8/87	7/87	8/86	8/87	7/87	8/86
Divide	1,803	1,779	1,933	1,764	1,742	1,845	39	37	88	2.2%	2.1%	4.6%
McKenzie	3,209	3,250	3,939	3,083	3,061	3,648	126	189	291	3.9%	5.8%	7.4%
Williams	11,064	11,365	13,724	10,424	10,481	11,929	640	884	1,795	5.8%	7.8%	13.1%
REGION 1	16,076	16,394	19,596	15,271	15,284	17,422	805	1,110	2,174	5.0%	6.8%	11.1%
Bottineau	4,072	4,061	4,219	3,916	3,860	3,993	156	201	226	3.8%	4.9%	5.4%
Burke	1,626	1,581	1,818	1,530	1,485	1,671	96	96	147	5.9%	6.1%	8.1%
McHenry	3,347	3,328	3,590	3,132	3,071	3,268	215	257	322	6.4%	7.7%	9.0%
Mountrail	3,776	3,769	4,089	3,539	3,511	3,732	237	258	357	6.3%	6.8%	8.7%
Pierce	2,943	2,948	3,133	2,873	2,850	3,040	70	98	93	2.4%	3.3%	3.0%
Renville	1,562	1,557	1,702	1,507	1,479	1,585	55	78	117	3.5%	5.0%	6.9%
Ward	25,859	26,473	26,641	24,844	25,281	25,293	1,015	1,192	1,348	3.9%	4.5%	5.1%
REGION 2	43,185	43,717	45,192	41,341	41,537	42,582	1,844	2,180	2,610	4.3%	5.0%	5.8%
Benson	3,801	3,732	3,914	3,528	3,418	3,662	273	314	252	7.2%	8.4%	6.4%
Cavalier	3,154	3,160	3,153	3,048	3,010	3,045	106	150	108	3.4%	4.7%	3.4%
Eddy	1,740	1,729	1,796	1,614	1,606	1,717	126	123	79	7.2%	7.1%	4.4%
Ramsey	7,020	7,037	6,935	6,776	6,762	6,734	244	275	201	3.5%	3.9%	2.9%
Rolette	5,167	5,297	5,677	4,500	4,593	4,995	667	704	682	12.9%	13.3%	12.0%
Towner	2,067	2,073	2,028	2,023	2,015	1,989	44	58	39	2.1%	2.8%	1.9%
REGION 3	22,949	23,028	23,503	21,489	21,404	22,142	1,460	1,624	1,361	6.4%	7.1%	5.8%
Grand Forks	35,031	35,660	35,110	33,621	34,524	33,767	1,410	1,136	1,343	4.0%	3.2%	3.8%
Nelson	2,360	2,313	2,447	2,290	2,225	2,364	70	88	83	3.0%	3.8%	3.4%
Pembina	5,789	5,821	5,978	5,478	5,432	5,556	311	389	422	5.4%	6.7%	7.1%
Walsh	8,932	9,021	9,336	8,593	8,582	8,916	339	439	420	3.8%	4.9%	4.5%
REGION 4	52,112	52,815	52,871	49,982	50,763	50,603	2,130	2,052	2,268	4.1%	3.9%	4.3%
Cass	57,011	57,948	56,880	55,543	56,521	55,063	1,468	1,427	1,817	2.6%	2.5%	3.2%
Ransom	3,170	3,156	3,202	3,095	3,093	3,142	75	63	60	2.4%	2.0%	1.9%
Richland	9,391	9,384	9,514	9,052	9,078	9,138	339	306	376	3.6%	3.3%	4.0%
Sargent	2,906	2,886	3,038	2,840	2,803	2,915	66	83	123	2.3%	2.9%	4.0%
Steele	1,541	1,525	1,551	1,508	1,473	1,504	33	52	47	2.1%	3.4%	3.0%
Traill	5,128	5,077	5,073	4,887	4,889	4,848	241	188	225	4.7%	3.7%	4.4%
REGION 5	79,147	79,976	79,258	76,925	77,857	76,610	2,222	2,119	2,648	2.8%	2.6%	3.3%

LABOR FORCE - BY COUNTY - BY REGION

	LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			RATE		
	Aug 1987	July 1987	Aug 1986	Aug 1987	July 1987	Aug 1986	Aug 1987	July 1987	Aug 1986	Aug 1987	July 1987	Aug 1986
Barnes	6,683	6,701	6,681	6,526	6,511	6,496	157	190	185	2.3%	2.8%	2.8%
Dickey	3,886	3,861	3,969	3,780	3,757	3,883	106	104	86	2.7%	2.7%	2.2%
Foster	2,402	2,428	2,561	2,339	2,332	2,458	63	96	103	2.6%	4.0%	4.0%
Griggs	1,878	1,808	1,906	1,839	1,783	1,864	39	25	42	2.1%	1.4%	2.2%
La Moure	2,995	2,924	3,020	2,938	2,852	2,934	57	72	86	1.9%	2.5%	2.8%
Logan	1,869	1,847	1,955	1,854	1,823	1,891	15	24	64	0.8%	1.3%	3.3%
McIntosh	2,730	2,685	2,800	2,694	2,637	2,736	36	48	64	1.3%	1.8%	2.3%
Stutsman	13,030	13,179	13,343	12,665	12,716	12,830	365	463	513	2.8%	3.5%	3.8%
Wells	3,361	3,321	3,463	3,229	3,177	3,337	132	144	126	3.9%	4.3%	3.6%
REGION 6	38,834	38,754	39,698	37,864	37,588	38,429	970	1,166	1,269	2.5%	3.0%	3.2%
Burleigh	33,082	33,410	33,592	32,016	32,032	31,828	1,066	1,378	1,764	3.2%	4.1%	5.3%
Emmons	2,783	2,698	2,824	2,697	2,617	2,701	86	81	123	3.1%	3.0%	4.4%
Grant	2,646	2,558	2,719	2,539	2,469	2,594	107	89	125	4.0%	3.5%	4.6%
Kidder	2,022	1,974	2,127	1,933	1,885	1,968	89	89	159	4.4%	4.5%	7.5%
McLean	5,211	5,205	5,282	4,985	4,932	4,891	226	273	391	4.3%	5.2%	7.4%
Mercer	5,944	5,877	6,237	5,623	5,526	5,673	321	351	564	5.4%	6.0%	9.0%
Morton	12,340	12,456	12,625	11,918	11,924	11,849	422	532	776	3.4%	4.3%	6.1%
Oliver	1,284	1,272	1,611	1,227	1,217	1,530	57	55	81	4.4%	4.3%	5.0%
Sheridan	1,609	1,552	1,769	1,558	1,514	1,673	51	38	96	3.2%	2.4%	5.4%
Sioux	1,477	1,443	1,537	1,287	1,296	1,319	190	147	218	12.9%	10.2%	14.2%
REGION 7	68,398	68,445	70,323	65,783	65,412	66,026	2,615	3,033	4,297	3.8%	4.4%	6.1%
Adams	2,077	2,049	2,126	2,034	2,001	2,048	43	48	78	2.1%	2.3%	3.7%
Billings	1,082	1,081	1,156	1,065	1,059	1,130	17	22	26	1.6%	2.0%	2.2%
Bowman	2,530	2,470	2,663	2,468	2,412	2,488	62	58	175	2.5%	2.3%	6.6%
Dunn	2,289	2,241	2,506	2,130	2,094	2,345	159	147	161	6.9%	6.6%	6.4%
Gldn Valley	1,250	1,235	1,207	1,217	1,202	1,159	33	33	48	2.6%	2.7%	4.0%
Hettinger	2,381	2,337	2,598	2,319	2,250	2,466	62	87	132	2.6%	3.7%	5.1%
Slope	701	663	745	672	633	693	29	30	52	4.1%	4.5%	7.0%
Stark	12,179	12,437	13,067	11,678	11,771	11,966	501	666	1,101	4.1%	5.4%	8.4%
REGION 8	24,489	24,513	26,068	23,583	23,422	24,295	906	1,091	1,773	3.7%	4.5%	6.8%
STATE TOTAL	345,190	347,642	356,504	332,238	333,267	338,107	12,952	14,375	18,397	3.8%	4.1%	5.2%

LABOR FORCE

NORTH DAKOTA AND MSA'S

	August 1987	July 1987	August 1986	Percent Change From August 1987	Percent Change From July 1986
UNITED STATES (In Thousands)					
Labor Force	122,038	121,671	119,821	0.3%	1.9%
Employment	114,817	114,447	111,764	0.3%	2.7%
Unemployment	7,221	7,224	8,057	0.0%	-10.4%
Unemployment Rate	5.9%	5.9%	6.7%	xxx	xxx
NORTH DAKOTA					
Labor Force	345,190	347,000	356,510	-0.5%	-3.2%
Employment	332,240	333,270	338,110	-0.3%	-1.7%
Unemployment	12,950	13,730	18,400	-5.7%	-29.6%
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	4.0%	5.2%	xxx	xxx
FARGO-MOORHEAD MSA					
Labor Force	82,910	84,110	81,980	-1.4%	1.1%
Employment	80,440	81,600	79,260	-1.4%	1.5%
Unemployment	2,470	2,510	2,720	-1.6%	-9.2%
Unemployment Rate	3.0%	3.0%	3.3%	xxx	xxx
GRAND FORKS MSA					
Labor Force	35,030	35,630	35,110	-1.7%	-0.2%
Employment	33,620	34,520	33,770	-2.6%	-0.4%
Unemployment	1,410	1,110	1,340	27.0%	5.2%
Unemployment Rate	4.0%	3.1%	3.8%	xxx	xxx
BISMARCK MSA					
Labor Force	45,420	45,630	46,220	-0.5%	-1.7%
Employment	43,930	43,960	43,680	-0.1%	0.6%
Unemployment	1,490	1,670	2,540	-10.8%	-41.3%
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	3.7%	5.5%	xxx	xxx

U. S. data seasonally adjusted, other data not seasonally adjusted.

The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes Cass and Clay Counties; the Grand Forks MSA includes Grand Forks County; and the Bismarck MSA includes Burleigh and Morton Counties.

BORDERING STATE LABOR FORCE COMPARISONS

JULY 1987
(In Thousands)

	NORTH DAKOTA	SOUTH DAKOTA	MINNESOTA	MONTANA
Labor Force	347.0	362.9	2,267.5	401.3
Employment	333.3	348.9	2,163.8	378.0
Unemployment	13.7	14.0	103.7	23.3
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	3.9%	4.6%	5.8%

DEFINITIONS

EMPLOYED: A count of individuals 16 years of age or older who worked for pay any time during the week which includes the 12th of the month or who worked unpaid for 15 hours or more in a family-operated enterprise. Members of the Armed Forces stationed in the United States are included in the U.S. totals, but are excluded from the North Dakota and MSA counts.

UNEMPLOYED: Includes all individuals who did not work during the survey week, but were available for work, except for temporary illness, and had looked for jobs within the preceding four weeks.

LABOR FORCE: The sum of the employed and the unemployed.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: The number of unemployed as a percent of the total labor force.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: A monthly statistical measure of the average change in prices in a fixed market basket of goods and services. Though the CPI is often called the "Cost of Living Index," it measures only price change, which is just one of several important factors affecting living costs. The index is produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX: This index measures the average changes in prices received in primary markets of the United States by producers of commodities in all stages of processing. The index is produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT: An estimate of all full- and part-time wage and salary employees who worked during, or received pay for, the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Estimates measure the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work.

JOB SERVICE OFFICE LOCATIONS

BISMARCK
216 Second Street
Phone: 224-2880

FARGO
1350 32nd Street S
Phone: 237-7113

JAMESTOWN
429 Second Street SW
Phone: 251-2256

VALLEY CITY
2425 W Main
Phone: 845-7261

BEULAH
119 E Main
Phone: 873-5607

DEVILS LAKE
301 College Drive
Phone: 662-2181

GRAND FORKS
2016 S Washington
Phone: 777-3711

MANDAN
501 First Street NW
Phone: 663-6461

WAHPETON
524 Second Avenue N
Phone: 671-2711

ROLLA
103 E Main
Phone: 477-5631

NEW TOWN
Tribal Administration Bldg.
Phone: 627-4390

DICKINSON
66 Osborn Drive
Phone: 227-2361

GRAFTON
728 Hill Avenue S
Phone: 352-2202

MINOT
3416 N Broadway
Phone: 852-2164

WILLISTON
422 First Avenue W
Phone: 572-7771

NDSU--Fargo
Placement Bureau
Memorial Union Building
Phone: 237-7111

UND--Grand Forks
Room 141
McCannel Hall
Phone: 777-3904

Job Service North Dakota
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